

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 VO-03 SCA-01 PPT-01 IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4514

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00371

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GW, GE, WB, UR, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: ALLIED RESPONSE TO GDR VISA MEASURE: FRG

PRESS STATEMENT

REFS: (A) BONN 307; (B) BONN 303; (C) BONN 302

1. FRG GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN GRUENEWALD MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT (IN WHICH ALLIED REPS HAD CONCURRED AT THE PREVIOUS AFTERNOON'S BONN GROUP MEETING) AT THE JANUARY 7 MORNING PRESS CONFERENCE:

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

2. BEGIN STATEMENT

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS BEEN IN CONSULTATION WITH THE THREE POWERS CONCERNING THE
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MEASURES WHICH THE GDR HAS RECENTLY TAKEN IN REGARD TO EAST BERLIN. IT HAS TOGETHER WITH THREE POWERS EXAMINED THESE MEASURES PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE STATEMENT OF THE GDR MFA OF DECEMBER 31, 1976. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WELCOMES THE POSITION WHICH THE THREE POWERS HAVE TAKEN IN THIS MATTER. IT CONSIDERS IT TO BE PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT THAT

THE THREE POWERS HAVE AGAIN MADE CLEAR THAT THE FOUR POWER STATUS FOR BERLIN AS A WHOLE APPLIES ALSO FOR EAST BERLIN, AND THAT EVERY ATTEMPT UNILATERALLY TO ALTER THAT STATUS WOULD REPRESENT A VIOLATION BOTH OF THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ALLIES AND OF THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 1971. THE STATEMENT OF THE THREE POWERS ALSO MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THE GDR, WHICH IS NOT ONE OF THE POWERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STATUS OF BERLIN, DOES NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO ALTER THE STATUS OF BERLIN.

END STATEMENT

3. GRUENEWALD ADDED, "I WOULD ASK YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT I WILL NOT GO BEYOND THIS STATEMENT IN THIS PRESS CONFERENCE BECAUSE THIS REPRESENTS A COMMENT ON THE STATED POSITION OF THE THREE POWERS. THE THREE WESTERN ALLIES HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS MATTER."

END UNCLASSIFIED

4. FRG BONN GROUP REP (VON ARNIM) INFORMED US THAT, DESPITE HIS DISCLAIMER, GRUENEWALD WAS PRESSED HARD AS TO WHETHER THE ALLIES HAD ALREADY PROTESTED TO THE SOVIETS, WHETHER THEY PLANNED TO DO SO, AND, IF SO, THE LOCATION OF THE PROTEST. AS GRUENEWALD WAS NOT FORTHCOMING IN THIS REGARD, VON ARNIM SAID THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICIALS
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ANTICIPATE CONSIDERABLE ADVERSE COMMENT IN THE WEEKEND FRG PRESS.

5. EMBASSY HAS ALSO RECEIVED NUMEROUS INQUIRIES ABOUT AN ALLIED PROTEST. AS AGREED IN THE BONN GROUP, WE ARE REFUSING TO DISCUSS THE MATTER AND ARE RELYING ON THE GUIDANCE OF REF B (QUESTION 4): "THE ALLIES DO NOT NORMALLY REVEAL CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIETS ON BERLIN. I WOULD DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE STATEMENT".
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